

CLAIMS

1. A recording apparatus comprising:

first through n-th recording means for recording
input broadcast contents to a recording medium;
user interfacing means for inputting an instruction
of a user to reserve a recording of a broadcast content;
and

reservation managing means which manages
reservations of broadcast content recordings with respect
to each of said first through n-th recording means and
which, when making a reservation of a broadcast content
recording in accordance with the recording reservation
instruction input through said user interfacing means,
selects automatically one of the first through n-th
recording means available for a time slot corresponding
to the recording reservation, in order to make said
recording reservation to the selected recording means.

2. The recording apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein, if said reservation managing means cannot
automatically select any one of the first through n-th
recording means because none of said recording means is
available for the time slot corresponding to said
recording reservation to be made in accordance with said

recording reservation instruction input through said user interfacing means, then said user interfacing means performs a selection requesting process for prompting said user to select one of said recording means to which to make said recording reservation.

3. The recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, when performing said selection requesting process, said user interfacing means also carries out a process for presenting the time slot applicable to the broadcast content to be reserved for unattended recording, and any previously made recording reservation overlapping either partially or totally with said time slot.

4. The recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, if said user selects one of said recording means to which to make said recording reservation in response to said selection requesting process performed by said user interfacing means, then said reservation managing means makes said recording reservation to the user-selected recording means.

5. The recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reservation managing means performs a switching process for automatically switching a recording reservation made to any one of said recording means to another recording means.

6. The recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein, if a recording reservation made to a particular one of said first through n-th recording means is canceled, then said reservation managing means switches another recording reservation made to another recording means to that particular recording means.

7. A recording reservation processing method for use with a recording apparatus having first through n-th recording means for recording input broadcast contents to a recording medium, said recording reservation processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting an instruction to reserve a broadcast content recording based on operations by a user;

automatically selecting from said first through n-th recording means recording means available for a time slot corresponding to the recording reservation designated by said instruction input in the inputting step; and

making said recording reservation to the recording means selected automatically in the automatically selecting step, said recording reservation being designated by said instruction input in the inputting step.

8. The recording reservation processing method

according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

if the automatically selecting step fails to select from said first through n-th recording means any recording means available for the time slot corresponding to said recording reservation designated by said instruction input in the inputting step, then requesting said user to select recording means to which said recording reservation is to be made; and

if said user selects in the selection requesting step the recording means to which to make said recording reservation, then making said recording reservation a second time to the user-selected recording means.

9. The recording reservation processing method according to claim 8, wherein the selection requesting step further comprises carrying out a process for presenting the time slot applicable to the broadcast content to be reserved for unattended recording, and any previously made recording reservation overlapping either partially or totally with said time slot.

10. A recording reservation processing method for use with a recording apparatus having first through n-th recording means for recording input broadcast contents to a recording medium, said recording reservation processing method comprising the steps of:

making a reservation of a broadcast content recording to any one of said first through n-th recording means; and

switching automatically a recording reservation made to any one of said recording means to another recording means.

11. The recording reservation processing method according to claim 10, wherein, if a recording reservation made to a particular one of said first through n-th recording means is canceled, then the switching step switches automatically another recording reservation made to another recording means to that particular recording means.